

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2694**

---

**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability  
(originally sponsored by Representatives Haigh, Nixon, Sump and Hunt)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/06.

1            AN ACT Relating to eliminating Saturday counting of ballots;  
2 amending RCW 29A.60.160; reenacting and amending RCW 29A.60.160;  
3 providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.60.160 and 2005 c 243 s 15 and 2005 c 153 s 11 are  
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7            Except for an election conducted under the instant runoff voting  
8 method for the pilot project authorized by RCW 29A.53.020, (~~{and}~~)  
9 and except for Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, the county  
10 auditor, as delegated by the county canvassing board, shall process  
11 absentee ballots and canvass the votes cast at that primary or election  
12 on a daily basis in counties with a population of seventy-five thousand  
13 or more, or at least every third day for counties with a population of  
14 less than seventy-five thousand, after a primary or election and before  
15 certification of election results, if the county auditor is in  
16 possession of more than twenty-five ballots that have yet to be  
17 canvassed. The county auditor, as delegated by the county canvassing  
18 board, may use his or her discretion in determining when to process the  
19 remaining absentee ballots and canvass the votes during the final four

1 days before the certification of election results in order to protect  
2 the secrecy of any ballot. In counties where this process has not been  
3 delegated to the county auditor, the county auditor shall convene the  
4 county canvassing board to process absentee ballots and canvass the  
5 votes cast at the primary or election as set forth in this section.

6 Except for an election conducted under the instant runoff voting  
7 method for the pilot project authorized by RCW 29A.53.020, each  
8 absentee ballot previously not canvassed that was received by the  
9 county auditor two days or more before processing absentee ballots and  
10 canvassing the votes as delegated by or processed by the county  
11 canvassing board, that either was received by the county auditor before  
12 the closing of the polls on the day of the primary or election for  
13 which it was issued, or that bears a postmark on or before the primary  
14 or election for which it was issued, must be processed at that time.  
15 The tabulation of votes that results from that day's canvass must be  
16 made available to the general public immediately upon completion of the  
17 canvass.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.60.160 and 2005 c 243 s 15 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 Except for Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, the county  
21 auditor, as delegated by the county canvassing board, shall process  
22 absentee ballots and canvass the votes cast at that primary or election  
23 on a daily basis in counties with a population of seventy-five thousand  
24 or more, or at least every third day for counties with a population of  
25 less than seventy-five thousand, after a primary or election and before  
26 certification of election results, if the county auditor is in  
27 possession of more than twenty-five ballots that have yet to be  
28 canvassed. The county auditor, as delegated by the county canvassing  
29 board, may use his or her discretion in determining when to process the  
30 remaining absentee ballots and canvass the votes during the final four  
31 days before the certification of election results in order to protect  
32 the secrecy of any ballot. In counties where this process has not been  
33 delegated to the county auditor, the county auditor shall convene the  
34 county canvassing board to process absentee ballots and canvass the  
35 votes cast at the primary or election as set forth in this section.

36 Each absentee ballot previously not canvassed that was received by  
37 the county auditor two days or more before processing absentee ballots

1 and canvassing the votes as delegated by or processed by the county  
2 canvassing board, that either was received by the county auditor before  
3 the closing of the polls on the day of the primary or election for  
4 which it was issued, or that bears a postmark on or before the primary  
5 or election for which it was issued, must be processed at that time.  
6 The tabulation of votes that results from that day's canvass must be  
7 made available to the general public immediately upon completion of the  
8 canvass.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act expires July 1, 2013.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1,  
11 2013.

--- END ---